

A PRE-SURGICAL SAFETY, WARNING, NOTIFICATION, AND/OR ALERTING DEVICE

The invention may be affixed to the patient pre-surgically by the patient, physician, and/or other health care provider. The invention includes a miniature version of the invention, intended to be affixed to the patient's medical chart to document that the invention has been utilized and has been affixed to pertinent or appropriate area(s) of the patient in order to warn the surgical health care provider(s) that they are not at the intended surgical site.

The foregoing constitute the best mode known by the applicant for carrying out this invention; however, the specific embodiments disclosed are illustrative of the principle of the invention and are not limiting in scope. To the contrary, it is recognized that one of ordinary skill in the art, given this teaching, may make variations in the structure or compositions without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention. Its scope is defined by the following claims including the protection offered by the doctrine of equivalents.

### 3. CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A pre-surgical safety, warning, notification, and/or alerting device or system comprising, in combination, an effectively shaped topical pre-printed or diagrammed warning strip.
2. A pre-surgical safety, warning, notification, and/or alerting device or system as described in Claim 1, including, in combination, an adhesive strip.
3. A pre-surgical safety warning, notification, and/or alerting device or system as described in Claim 1, wherein the notification agent is placed onto an adhesive surface.
4. A method for pre-surgically warning, notifying and/or alerting the surgical health care provider(s) that they are not at the intended surgical site, comprising the steps of:
  - forming a pre-surgical safety warning, notification, and/or alerting device or system in combination with an adhesive strip or surface and applying the safety, warning, notification, and/or alerting device or system topically at a location that alerts the surgical health care provider(s) that they are not at the intended surgical site.
5. A method as defined in Claim 4 wherein:
  - the pre-surgical safety, warning, notification, and/or alerting device or system is attached to an adhesive surface, and topically applying the adhesive surface at a location that alerts the surgical health care provider(s) that they are not at the intended surgical site.

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6. A method as defined in Claim 5 further comprising:  
leaving the pre-surgical safety, warning, notification, and/or alerting device or system on the skin for a predetermined sufficient amount of time for complete, unambiguous pre-surgical identification of the impending surgical site as not being the intended surgical site.
7. A method as defined in Claim 6 further comprising an adhesive surface with an effective amount of a vinyl, PVC, cellulose, woven filament, fabric or other material of various sizes and shapes as a pre-printed surface.
8. A pre-surgical safety, warning, notification, and/or alerting device or system for topical application to the skin, comprising:  
a pre-surgical safety, warning, notification, and/or alerting device or system, pre-printed and diagrammed; and an adhesive surface onto which the pre-surgical safety warning, notification, alerting device or system can be affixed for topical application to the skin and holding the pre-surgical safety, warning, notification, and/or alerting device or system in contact with a patient's skin at an unintended surgical site.

00720808-20400